

★ ★ ★ ELECTION 2020

33 DAYS LEFT UNTIL NOV. 3

ARE YOU READY TO VOTE? Let's find out.

There are only 33 days until the Presidential Election. Are you ready to vote? In a year where everything seems to be bleak, the Nov. 3 election provides Americans with an opportunity to make the future a little brighter. Take it and vote.

Are you registered?

Registration deadlines

Missouri
Online: Oct. 7
By mail: postmarked by Oct. 7
In Person: Oct. 7

Iowa
Online: Oct. 24
By mail: received by Oct. 24
In Person: Oct. 4 by 5 p.m.

Nebraksa
Online: Oct. 16
By mail: postmarked by Oct. 16
In Person: Oct. 23

Do you have a voting plan?

Absentee ballot deadlines

Missouri
Request: Oct. 21
Return by mail: received by Nov. 3 by 7 p.m.
Return in Person: Nov. 3 by 7 p.m.

Iowa
Request: Oct. 24 by 5 p.m.
Return by mail: received by Nov. 3
Return in Person: Nov. 3 by close of polls

Nebraksa
Request: Oct. 23
Return by mail: received by Nov. 3 by 8 p.m.
Return in Person: Nov. 3 by 8 p.m.

Early voting

Iowa and Nebraska
Oct. 5 - Nov. 2, dates and hours may vary based on where you live

Additional Information

Iowa
You can also register and vote on Election Day. You can also register and vote an absentee ballot at the same time after Oct. 24 through Nov. 2

Nebraksa
The deadline to return a voter registration form with an early voting ballot in person is Election Day.

Parade coming despite COVID

WESLEY MILLER
News Reporter | @Wesleymiller360

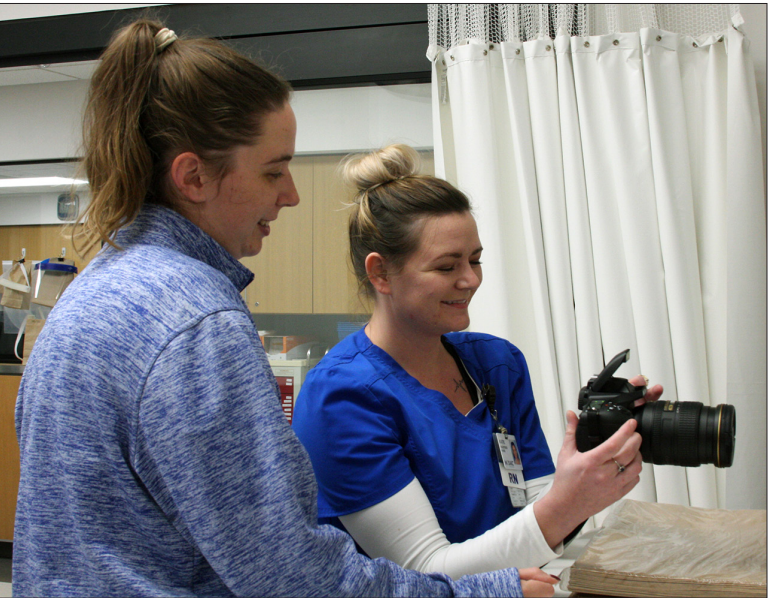
Everyone recognizes it — the excitement and pride that comes with homecoming week. The big football game, the loud crowds, the week-long activities, parades and royalty are all what would be part of this long-lasting tradition. But for Bearcats and other student bodies across the nation, homecoming will look a little different this year. With the MIAA's decision to cancel fall sports, there will not be any football for this homecoming. Football is generally the focus of homecoming week and what the people look forward to. However, even without a game, the event goes on, still with plenty of activities. Homecoming week will take place from Oct. 4-10. The theme will be "Bearcats in Outer Space."

FRATERNITY BID DAY:



Current members of Sigma Phi Epsilon wait to run across the football field to meet their new members during bid day Sept. 27 at Bearcat Stadium.

SEE HOCO | A4



Kristin Marriot and Katie Wilmes are the two Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners at Mosaic Life Care in Maryville who are in the orientation period of their training. The University Police Department recently received a \$300,000 grant, dedicating a portion to Mosaic Life Care to supplement equipment and training for SANE nurses.

New grant awarded to UPD gives funding for SANE nurses, training

MADELINE MAPES
News Reporter | @MadelineDMapes

University Police Department Lt. Amanda Cullin sat behind her desk with a black mask and a black T-shirt with the letters "NW" encompassed by a green heart. Her shirt showed her love for the Northwest community and her passion to aid survivors of sexual assault. Cullin's passion is also shown through the \$300,000 grant UPD has recently received to help these survivors over the next three years. The grant provides financial support training for UPD in sexual assault cases, but its main focus is to bring Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, or SANE nurses, back into the

\$300,000
will supplement sexual assault examiner nurses, a service that used to be 40 minutes away.

Maryville community. Cullin said the OVW grant was approved by the Department of Justice's Office for Violence Against Women. UPD will funnel \$41,000 the first year and then \$45,000 per year during the last two years of the grant to Mosaic Life Care to supplement equipment and training for SANE nurses. Cullin teamed up with Mosaic

Life Care and many other programs across the community and campus to formulate the Office for Violence Against Women Fiscal Year 2020 Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking on Campus Program grant.

SEE UPD | A4

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Virtual fundraising campaign brings in nearly \$200,000

ZANE CULJAT
News Reporter I | @BoomerZane

Northwest students, faculty and alumni, along with the general public, were unafraid to show their support on the inaugural Bearcat Day of Green. The virtual fundraising campaign spanned 1,905 minutes, a nod to the year Northwest opened its doors, Sept. 23 and 24.

Over two days, 603 donors and 125 ambassadors helped to raise nearly \$200,000 helping multiple entities on campus. The most money went to funding student scholarships, followed by Northwest’s athletics department.

Bob Machovsky, director of alumni relations and annual giving at Northwest, said this event is more than simply supporting higher education.

“The Day of Green provides the opportunity for the Bearcat family to come together and make a donation to an area that matters most to them,” Machovsky said.

Additionally, Machovsky noted that private support from generous donors allows the University to do things like make enhancements to the campus and offer additional scholarships.

Donors could choose from several causes over the course of the fundraiser. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion piloted a new scholarship to “help Black students achieve their dreams.” The Karen L. Daniel Legacy Fund was established with a \$1 million gift from the 1980 Northwest graduate. Daniel said starting this fund is the least she can do to help students out, regardless of their walk of life.

“I called it the Legacy Fund in honor of my parents, grandparents and ancestors who inspired me,

gave me the strength and whose shoulders my generation stands on,” Daniel said.

A portion of Daniel’s newly-established fund will go towards the development of a new Black cultural resource center named for Daniel’s niece and 1997 graduate, Leslie Doyle.

Athletic Director Andy Peterson mentioned why he believes Northwest has a strong sense of community.

“#BearcatDayofGreen has once again showed why this place is special,” Peterson said in a tweet Sept. 24. “My prayer is that we make positive differences in students’ lives, and continue to focus on getting better as a university in many ways.”

Other causes funded by donor generosity include the “Invest in Northwest” initiative, a rainy day fund designed to be dipped into when greater University needs arise. Several donations were also made to the construction and upkeep of the new Agricultural Learning Center on the north end of campus.

A sizable portion of proceeds were put toward the Bearcat Food Pantry and the related Pay It Forward Fund, a program helping students who struggle financially with course materials, tuition and other unexpected expenses.

KXCV-KRNW, Northwest’s student-run NPR affiliate public radio stations, also received over \$4,100 to help continue providing their broadcast services to the communities they serve.

Those who weren’t able to give can still do so. Donations are still being accepted in multiple formats. Online contributions can be made anytime on Northwest’s website. If preferred, donations can be made by mail to the Michael L. Faust Center for Alumni and Friends.



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN
Located on 222 East Third Street, the new Maryville Public Safety building continues to see last-minute touch ups on the new complex.

Public Safety relocates with improved capacity

KENDRICK CALFEE
News Editor I | @calfee_kc

Just past the front doors of the new Maryville Public Safety building, guests walk over the agency’s logo, printed large on the floor and glance at a plaque solidified on the wall next to them. “R. Keith Wood Public Safety Facility” it reads, commemorating the work of the long-time public safety director who’s vision for the agency shines even after his retirement.

The new building houses all of Maryville Public Safety, including police, fire and dispatch. With several improvements focused on efficiency and functionality, the building took several months to complete, but several more years at that to plan and execute.

At a tour of the facility Sept. 29, Maryville Public Safety’s Interim Director Ron Christian said there is a lot he could be grateful for, but

the improvement he never neglects to mention is the fact it has a public bathroom.

“We laugh now, but it means a lot more to us than people realize,” Christian said to the group through a chuckle.

Christian talked about other improvements that mean a lot to those coming in and out of the building daily. Those changes include large meeting rooms that could be used for local and regional trainings, up-to-date locker rooms for officers, the consolidated 911 dispatch center and a fire truck bay, which by its dimensions alone, the old public safety building could fit inside of.

Meeting rooms in the new facility are aimed to provide for regional law enforcement and fire training and will be made available for other events public safety holds. The rooms may also be available for public use, Christian said, standing

in one of the rooms with his arms spread, motioning toward the newly spacious capacity.

The “C” shaped hallway just past the building’s entrance branches off in a couple different directions, leading visitors to several different offices and rooms, and eventually to dispatch services.

The new consolidated dispatch system, the Northwest Regional Communications Center, began full operation at 9 a.m. Sept. 30. It is composed of dispatch for police, sheriff, ambulance and the 11 local fire districts.

Dispatch Supervisor Jessica Rickabaugh said the dispatch center also serves as a storm shelter, calling it essentially a “building inside a building,” so when storms happen, communication lines remain up and going.

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Homecoming Showcase
(Starts 5pm @ The Bell Tower)

Awards
(Family of the year, Photo Contest, Canned Art, Blood Drive & Royalty)

Performances By:
(Bearcat Marching Band & Bearcat Steppers)

For more info visit:
<http://www.nwmissouri.edu/getinvolved/homecoming/index.htm>

New health campaign brings unity

ABIGAIL STARR
News Reporter | @abbeystarr5

Five students sat on the stage, packing lunch sacks with buttons, resource cards and bandanas, attempting to connect those in need with counselors who can help. Active Minds members neatly folded bandanas, welcoming students as they came in.

The soft launch of the “Green Bandana” campaign began there at 6 Sept. 23, in the Performing Arts Center on Northwest’s campus. Each student in attendance could donate \$1 to the organization in exchange for a green bandana, a button and a stack of cards with various mental health resources listed. Bearcats can then approach students with bandanas throughout the semester and ask for a card. All students are encouraged to participate in the campaign.

The campaign was created at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and has spread to campuses across the country.

“I think Northwest has great mental health resources but people don’t know about them,” Active Minds President Cayla Vertreese said. “I worry that if they don’t get utilized they will go away.”

Some of those resources include the University Police Department, Mosaic Behavioral Health, Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville, the National Sexual Assault Hotline, the Northwest Wellness Center and other hotlines.

Active Minds is a nationwide nonprofit organization focused on opening up the conversation around mental health and creating change in the way mental health is treated. Vertreese brought Active Minds to Northwest last year, with the goal of keeping people from having the same experience she had her freshman year.

Vertreese was hospitalized due to mental illness her first year at Northwest. She suffers from major depressive disorder and anxiety. Mosaic held her for her own safety for six days following a crisis the Thursday before Labor Day weekend. She was not allowed to call her family, boyfriend or friends, she said. She couldn’t journal because she wasn’t allowed to have a pen for fear she may hurt herself or others.

Since her release, Vertreese made it a priority to expand on-campus resources and provide a network to students who don’t feel like they have a support system. This journey led her to Monica Zeigel, Northwest’s Hope 4 All coordinator and a mental health advocate.

The two brought Active Minds to Northwest with shared experiences and a common goal.

Active Minds held a showing of the film “Suicide: The Ripple Effect.” It tells the story of Kevin Hines, a man who jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge and survived in 2000. Hines was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in high school. His battle with his mental health drove him to jump Sept. 25, 2000, an act he was lucky to survive.

Since his recovery, he has published his book “Cracked, Not Broken” and toured the country as an activist for suicide prevention.

Eighteen students had their eyes glued to the screen, taking in the reality of how common suicide is in the United States.

Following the movie, the students shared an open dialogue regarding mental health, suicide and matters of mental illness on a local level. Students took turns sharing their personal experiences with mental health and how they maintain their mental health.

A common trend among responses was learning how to manage stress



EMILY LLOYD | NW MISSOURIAN

Active Minds President Cayla Vertreese speaks among the other officers at the first event of the semester Sept. 23. The event involved handing out green bandanas to spread awareness for mental health across campus throughout the week.

and anxious thoughts. From music to journaling to exercise, there was no limit to the actions that keep them from being pushed to the breaking point. One student said that day was the first day in months she’d gotten dressed and brushed her hair. The audience applauded her.

“I’m so impressed by this group’s answers,” Assistant Director of Wellness Services B.K. Taylor said. “We never choose to fall down, but we choose to get back up, and what the video said and what you all are saying makes that true.”

The Wellness Center adopted the RESPOND method from Missouri State University, meaning recognize signs, empathize, share concerns, pose open questions, offer hope, navigate resources and policy and do self-care. The program is de-

signed to teach the campus community how to recognize and respond to mental health concerns.

RESPOND trainings include a brief overview of mental health problems on college campuses, discussion about stigma and culture and an overview of signs associated with mental health problems. It also focuses on how to effectively respond with basic listening and empathy, risk assessment at the lay level, support, referral and taking care of the self.

There are no meetings scheduled this semester due to COVID-19 mitigation, but Assistant Director of Wellness Services Kristen Peltz said she plans to host in-person sessions soon.

“Something we talk about a lot is ‘holding the space.’ Meaning when we talk about our feelings or feel un-

comfortable we support that conversation and continue it instead of shutting it down,” Peltz said.

The Wellness Center holds in-person Wellness Workshops at 2 p.m. every Thursday in the J.W. Jones Student Union Meeting Room B.

Active Minds holds virtual meetings open to the public 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Anyone interested in joining the group can find them on social media @activeminds_nwmsu or can email them at activeminds@nwmissouri.edu.

Anyone who struggles with mental health can call the national suicide prevention hotline at 800-273-8255. Students can also reach the Northwest Wellness Center at 660-562-1348.

The Pit offers a secluded dwelling for art students perfecting their craft

ABBEY HUGO
Copy Editor | @abbey_hugo

Deep within the depths of the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building lies an artistic hub few outside the Northwest Department of Fine and Performing Arts are familiar with. The first thing people see upon entering the Fine Arts Building is the grand, turquoise-laced staircase that flanks a mosaic and leads upstairs. This aforementioned hub is in the opposite direction. To reach it, students hop down one of the more unassuming stairwells tucked into the corners of the building and leading down.

Upon first glance, this space seems more like a skate park than anything else. The large, concrete basin from which this area probably got its name is anything but awe-inspiring. But just as in “The Wiz-

ard of Oz,” people must follow the yellow path to reach the true magic. The sunshine-yellow stripe runs to The Pit, a collection of 22 student art studios in the basement of the Fine Arts Building.

Art professor Armin Muhsam never questioned the name, The Pit, when he arrived at Northwest 20 years ago. He finds it fitting.

“A pit is something that is quite literally dug into the ground (i.e. the basement) but it is also something where humans labor, which is to say that they make art,” Muhsam said in an email.

The cubicle-like studios are rewarded to art students of advanced standing, to be used as an area entirely dedicated to their art. Here, Muhsam said, students can develop “self-directed and mature work.” He pointed out that very few univer-

sities offer undergraduate students their own studios, but he couldn’t overstate their value.

“The benefits of such a space to make art on one’s own time is self-evident: it is akin to a scientist’s laboratory – a safe space where experiments are conducted and discoveries are made,” Muhsam said.

Most students achieve advanced standing after their second year, once they’ve completed the bulk of their 100- and 200-level courses. These classes provide foundational introductions to various disciplines and media, like drawing, ceramics, print and sculpture. It’s like a taste test. It exposes students to things they may have never tried before,



EMILY LLOYD | NW MISSOURIAN

Artist Katelyn Cadwell sits in her workspace in the basement of the Fine Arts Building and paints her artwork Sept. 25.

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HOCO
CONTINUED FROM A1

Participants would need to submit a photo by 5 p.m. Oct. 7, and the winners will be announced at 5 p.m. Oct. 9.

The canned art contest gives students a chance to show off their creativity. Like the photo contest, this event allows students to show their Bearcat pride and homecoming spirit by building structures on the second floor of the Union, remaining on display throughout the week of homecoming.

Homecoming royalty is also a long-lasting tradition. Every year, five girls are nominated for queen, and five boys are nominated for king.

As displayed on the Northwest's homecoming royalty page, the king candidates for this year are Blake Broderson, senior; Connor Thompson, sophomore; James Palmer, senior; Kirayle Jones, senior; and Nathan White, senior.

The queen candidates for this year are Carmen Miller, senior; Emily Meneely, senior; Grace McCarty, senior; Liz Johnson, senior; and Debielle Patee-Merrill, senior.

Walkout Day is a tradition of Northwest's that dates back to 1915. During this time, more activities will ensue.

There will be the Bell of '48 Ringing, which will commence Walkout Day and begin the homecoming festivities.

The Student Activities Council planned activities for the day itself and the week building up to it. Brady Netzel, Northwest traditions director for the Student Activities Council, said there will be a scavenger hunt during the week.

The scavenger hunt will include plastic pumpkins in the area around the Union. The pumpkins will have instructions for students to follow, then go to the second floor of the Union and receive a prize. Each day the Student Activities Council will give out merchandise.

There are limited amounts of prizes, however, and Netzel said the best way to know how much is left is to follow their social media accounts.

For the day itself, Netzel said the Student Activities Council is focused on giveaways.

"We will have limited edition Walk Out Day T-shirts to give out, as well as "BEARCATS"-branded



HAILEY HOWARD | FILE

The Homecoming parade will still go on this year on Oct. 3 starting at 3 p.m. but will only allow walk-in participants for COVID-19 precautions.

lanyards and limited edition Walk Out Day buttons," Netzel said.

There are two locations where students can receive these items. The first location is outside of The Station in between the high-rise residence halls. The second location is outside near the Bell Tower in between the Union and the Hudson-Perrin Residence Halls. Netzel also said these items will be free.

Netzel said the focus of Walkout Day turned from student events to giveaways.

"We, as SAC, are still trying to figure out what is the most safest and viable option when it comes to student events, and our main priority is the safety and well-being of the students," Netzel said. "Giving out really cool items is the perfect alternative to take place in the absence of student events."

Starting at 12:45 p.m. Oct. 9, Northwest students will raise their respective nation's flag as a part of the flag-raising ceremony, at the Joyce and Harvey White International Plaza. Northwest has 290 international students enrolled who represent 39 different countries.

At 3 p.m. on Oct. 9, the parade will officially begin. Students who wish to not attend will be able to watch it online, as it will be streamed live. The parade will proceed through the heart of Northwest campus, starting at the corner of College Avenue and College Park Drive and proceeding north to Centennial Drive. It will continue south on University Drive and end at the Mabel Cook Recruitment and Visitors Center.

Entries for the parade are being limited to only student organizations and on-campus departments. Thompson said there will be over 20 campus organizations represented in the parade.

Aidan Kocsis, executive chair for parade, said all supremacy entries, which include floats and dancing clowns, have been canceled in an effort to help prevent further spread of COVID-19 in the University community and help ensure Northwest maintains an active learning environment.

Walk-in entries are permitted but are only open for student organizations and on-campus departments. The deadline to register for the parade is at 5 p.m. Sept. 30.

With Walkout Day, the flag-raising ceremony, Bell of '48 Ringing, homecoming parade and showcase being normally crowded events, there have been concerns on how homecoming would be able to meet COVID-19 precautions.

"The only changes to those events is that we will be following all mitigation rules that the University has put into place," Thompson said.

Thompson also said the process of planning these events was easy, since they are just going to follow the same rules as the University.

After the parade, students can meet at the Bell Tower for performances by the Bearcat Marching Band and the Bearcat Steppers. At this time, awards and homecoming royalty will be announced, which will conclude the homecoming week activities.

UPD
CONTINUED FROM A1

"We had a change, recently, from St. Francis Hospital to Mosaic Hospital, and during that change over, we lost our SANE nurse," Cullin said.

Cullin said although there hasn't been a SANE nurse in the Maryville community for a while, UPD and other police departments have had access to SANE nurses in St. Joseph, Missouri. Survivors of sexual assault would have to be driven at least 40 minutes, usually by police, to have the examination done.

Cullin's vest and badge were draped over the back of her chair. Her desk was mostly cleaned off, but the rest of her office was cluttered and messy, much like her job as a police officer.

Cullin noted this position is difficult to fill because, in order for someone to keep the position, they must do so many exams a year, not to mention the emotional toll it can take on the SANE nurse. Her blue-rimmed glasses were placed over her mask as if to hold it in place while she described the situation many SANE nurses are tasked with.

After Mosaic receives their cut of the grant, this would leave UPD with \$169,000 to use throughout the three-year period. Cullin said part of this grant will also pay for half of the salary of a new project director to facilitate the uses of the OVW grant money.

Cullin also said UPD may have to travel for meetings involving the OVW grant and that some of the money they received would have to be put aside for these times.

She noted that the meetings could end up online this year due to the pandemic, which would allow UPD to keep those funds to put towards more training and programs to better prepare them for handling sexual assault cases and working with survivors.

Cullin sat through countless other meetings with Mosaic, Nodaway County Prosecuting Attorney Caleb Phillips and Grants Coordinator Tye Parsons to create the OVW Grant.

Green Dot, Maryville Public Safety, the Nodaway County Sheriff's Department, Title IX, Residential Life, North Star Advocacy Center, the Wellness Center and various other departments are working with UPD and Mosaic to provide training and support to those who aid survivors of sexual assault.

These departments also make up the community response team or the Sexual Assault Response Team, better known as SART.

"It's been a great resource for us to align our resources together and try to align our training as well, and this grant will provide that," Cullin said. "It's going to provide opportunities for training for law enforcement as well as conduct."

Cullin also said UPD will invite all of their partners in the community and on campus to participate in the training.

Emergency Department Director

Paula Goodridge explained that becoming a SANE nurse is a tedious task that requires a lot of training and great attention to detail.

SANE nurses are registered nurses who undergo training to administer sexual assault examinations on top of their regular duties as a nurse.

Goodridge said it is difficult to keep nurses in the position as a SANE nurse because of the additional training and emotional toll that comes with the job.

"Keeping them interested and keeping them doing it," Goodridge said, her mask nudging her glasses while she spoke.

Goodridge said the training to maintain a SANE nurse position is done often since these nurses have to complete a certain amount of examinations every year to keep the position.

She also explained that training to be able to perform a SANE examination is difficult in that Mosaic is asking anyone who goes through the training to observe at least 10 sexual assault kit examinations as an orientation period before being able to do it on their own.

"There's been nurses that have been trained and they just don't keep with it because of all the additional education and stuff that go along with it, and this is on top of their regular duties," Goodridge said.

Cullin said this has been a hard goal for potential SANE nurses to obtain this year in Nodaway county because there has been a decrease in reported sexual assault cases.

"There are three of us doing it, and only one of us has seen two cases," Goodridge said. Her yellow cardigan and patterned shirt reflected the good news she was discussing that was becoming a problem for the three trainees, including Goodridge, trying to finish their training. Goodridge said the two cases that had been seen were the only cases observed since May.

She noted that herself and two other nurses have been on call for sexual assault cases in St. Joseph, Missouri, so they can get in their observation hours, which they have been working on since May.

Cullin had explained that these SANE nurses are vital to sexual assaults because of investigation and prosecution if the survivor chooses to press charges. She said sexual assault cases are harder cases to prosecute, but with a sexual assault kit being used, it makes it easier for people like Phillips to prosecute these cases since these kits provide a lot of necessary evidence.

The OVW grant will make this process easier and faster since the examinations will soon be able to be done in Maryville rather than outside of the community.

"We really needed this resource in our community," Cullin said.

She explained that federal grants are rather competitive while she leaned forward over her copy of the grant that she had displayed in front of her on the desk. She said as a small rural community, it was incredible that UPD received this grant.



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What does it mean to be Black enough?

CORBIN SMITH
Columnist | @curly_corbs

What cultivates your identity? Is it the color of your skin? Is it the movies you watch? Or, is it the type of people you hang around? According to the standards I’ve grown up with, it’s a mixture of all of the above and none of the mentioned.

As a biracial individual, I’ve always had an issue with finding an identity to fit in. Growing up, I was always “the Black kid” or some title that loosely related to false ideas of who Black people are. It wasn’t until my junior year of high school that I felt comfortable in my permanently tanned skin, and even then, I still didn’t feel like I fit in with Black people.

Since then, I’ve grown a lot. I’ve gotten a “Black” haircut. I play a predominately Black sport. I’m re-watching some of my favorite TV shows and movies with Black casts. I’ve learned more about my culture, no thanks to public schooling. However, none of these are prerequisites to be “Black.”

So, what exactly does it mean to be Black?

Being Black is more than just having dark skin and bodacious hair; it’s an experience. For me, it’s growing up being picked on for not speaking in slang, being invested in my education or not adhering to the multitude of less-than-human stereotypes. For me, it’s having to research how racist a place is before visiting. For me, it’s watching my culture be dragged through the mud only to be washed off and rebranded as somehow more spectacular.

It’s disheartening to realize that, as a kid, I never felt proud of who I was because I didn’t fit in a predetermined idea of what a Black kid was supposed to be. As much as having a strong Black father helped me today, it felt like a hindrance in yesteryears.

In Childish Gambino’s “Hold You Down,” there are few lines that say, “He said I wasn’t really Black because I had a dad. I think that’s kinda sad. Mostly ’cause a lotta Black kids think they should agree with that.”

This song, among many others, still runs through my head when I think about the Black experience. During my elementary years, I was convinced that, since I had an amazing Black father, I didn’t qualify to be Black. As I grew, my father taught me more on what it means to have melanin, and without him, my identity would still be lost in my struggle of being biracial in a predominantly white community.

The reality is, a lot of Black individuals share this experience, Northwest students included.

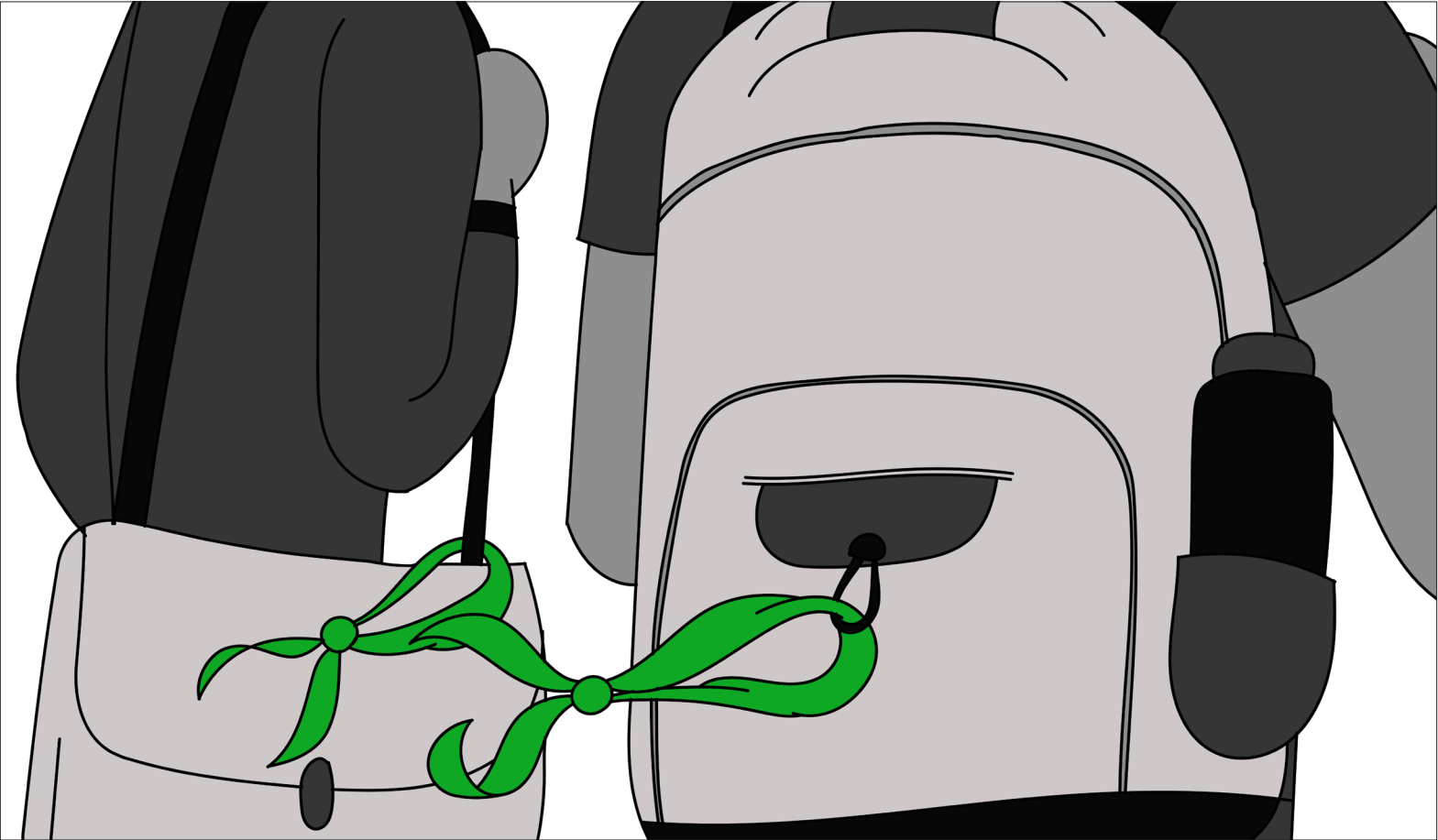
For sophomore Tiffany Hughey, being Black is knowing that she looks very different among a lot of her peers and environment, but finding a sense of pride in it.

For Junior Cayla Vertreese, not being “Black enough” means not being fully accepted by Black people or white people. It means being targeted for her skin color but being dismissed when she tries to talk about her racist encounters.

To her, she feels as though she is “nine times out of 10” being tolerated and not being accepted. Through the adversity she faces as a Black woman, she finds herself as one of the most resilient beings on the planet, balancing everyday struggles on top of the struggles Black individuals face.

READ MORE
ONLINE

A full version of this column is available online at
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Support fellow Bearcats

Participate in Active Minds ‘Green Bandana’ campaign

The year 2020 is the year from hell. Rarely has normal life been upended on such a massive scale. The economy is in free-fall, a pandemic is raging and a new natural disaster upends the lives of millions of Americans seemingly daily.

The multitude of crises has had a strain on us mentally. Mental health issues should always be at the forefront of discussions, but they are of even more significance at this time. This is why spending \$1 for a simple piece of green cloth is a crucial step towards aiding the mental health crisis and reducing perceived stigma surrounding mental health that all Bearcats should take.

The “Green Bandana” campaign promoted by Northwest’s Active Minds chapter is aimed at getting students involved in helping the mental health crisis facing college campuses across the U.S. The premise is simple: a person can donate \$1 to the organization and they will receive a bandana, a button and some cards with information about mental health resources. It’s a way to crowdsourcing mental health outreach and signify that people aren’t alone in their struggles.

As the mental health crisis rears its ugly head, college students are one of the groups most affected. Three-fourths of all mental health issues appear before the age of 24, and 39% of college students will experience a significant mental health issue, according to Active Minds’ official website. Suicide is also the second leading cause of death among young adults and the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. overall. And with COVID-19, it’s getting worse.

While it’s important and often easier to remember the economic and physical impacts of the coronavirus, the pandemic is causing a surge in mental health issues. Almost half of Americans say the pandemic is negatively affecting their mental health, with nearly 20% seeing it as having a “major impact,” according to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll. Calls to mental health help hotlines and the use of online counseling services are all up during the pandemic.

It was highlighted in this newspaper that even prior to

YOUR VIEW:


What do you think about the “Green Bandana” campaign?

CHARLOTTE OLDHAM
Sophomore
Elementary Education



“I think that’s great. I think that as a society we haven’t put enough stress on mental health, and so I think that’s a really great resource for people who may feel like they can’t reach out or they don’t know who to reach out to.”

KOFFI LEWIS
Junior
History



“I feel like that’s a pretty good campaign to have around school, around campus and stuff like that, especially for young people our age.”

CAMERON KNOWLES
Senior
Elementary Education



“Sounds pretty good from what I hear. Sounds like it’s doing a good job raising mental health awareness and stuff, and if they’re providing resources, I’m never going to be against that.”

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat has already made a decision

I’ve seen all I need to see after the presidential debate. Well, I didn’t actually watch the debate; I rewatched episodes of “The Office” that I have seen 11 times — it’s better than “Friends” — and then saw a highlights video on Facebook, but I am now sure in my choice for who I am voting for in the election.

Some people prefer to do research and actually study a candidate’s policy, but that seems kind of hard. I mean I’m sure I am as

informed as most other people that will vote in November. I’ve seen three memes about Biden from my very racist uncle, and my aunt who is married to that uncle — surprisingly solid relationship — trapped me in a 30-minute conversation where she explained why she hates Trump.

I have had the full unbiased perspective from both sides of the aisle so I’m ready. And yeah, I know that the New York Times just published Trump’s tax re-

turns, but did you see how long that article was? I’ll check it out when someone drops the SparkNotes for it.

I saw a 45-second clip that was titled “Best Roasts from 2020 Debate.” I’m sure someone on the random comedy page on Facebook fact-checked the statements to see if they were accurate. And if not who cares? I want to be dazzled, not bored with real life.

All I’ve been hearing about is that this is the most important vot-

ing decision of the 21st century. Well, I’d say that’s rather disrespectful to the hay-day episodes of “American Idol.” This election might be for the soul of America, but I am almost to Jim and Pam’s wedding episode — spoiler alert — so I have better ways to spend my time. I’m writing in Kanye.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

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CONTACT US	
Newsroom:	(660) 562-1224
Advertising:	(660) 562-1635
Circulation:	(660) 562-1528
Fax:	(660) 562-1521

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★★★ELECTION 2020

FORMER SHERIFF RUNS AGAIN

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

Darren White tends to tell stories as he explains his campaign platforms and thoughts on policing. In fact, he tends to tell stories when he explains just about anything, outlining his views on things as pertinent as the duties of a sheriff’s office or as unconnected as the rising cost of higher education all through some kind of narrative arc.

White, the former sheriff of Nodaway County running to be the next sheriff of Nodaway County, seems to have a scenario for everything, whether it’s hypothetical or anecdotal. “For example,” he says often, before diving into past experiences or imagined situations, stopping only to answer the follow-ups he poses to himself, all in a plot that helps White explain why, exactly, he is right and why, exactly, it matters.

And perhaps that’s why White, 60, who lost to Randy Strong by less than 1,000 votes in 2016 after serving two terms as the face of law enforcement in Nodaway County, is running a campaign built on the issues and his desire to serve, he said — items he can package to voters in recitals about why they should elect him again.

“At the risk of sounding like a Hallmark card, I’ve really devoted most of my adult life to serving the public, and not just the public, but primarily the people live that in this county right here,” White said Sept. 24 over the hum of machinery in his garage and office tucked a half-acre or so behind his home on the outskirts of Maryville, Nodaway County’s largest city. “It’s a passion.”

For more than an hour in his unfinished workspace, White dove into the chronicles of what his career had been in Nodaway County and what it still could be. After serving the county as an unpaid reserve deputy for three years starting in 1985, White returned to the Nodaway County Sheriff’s Office in 1999, where he worked for 17 consecutive years before being unseated after the last election.

After a two-term tenure and nearly 30 years serving Nodaway County, where he worked as an EMS employee before and after his stint as a reserve deputy, White could have quietly stepped out of law enforcement and into his family’s business.

But he never even considered it, he said. White is convinced that his work as sheriff, like the industrial garage he told his stories from, remains unfinished.

“It’s a fair question to say, ‘Why would anybody want to do this — especially right now?’” White said. “That’s the best answer I can give you, is that it’s a passion.”

To White, the issues are all that matters in local elections, not party affiliations, he said — a sensible take from a Democrat seeking office in a county that overwhelmingly elects Republicans. And the issues, it’s worth repeating, are what the former sheriff is running on.

The two pillars of White’s campaign center around service and the Sheriff’s Office’s annual budget — which he said has increased by close to \$1 million since he was unseated in 2016.

Though the two chief policy issues on which White has built his re-election campaign seem to be separate, they ultimately weave together in his eyes, and in the way he explains their importance.

While every tax payer in the county helps fund the Sheriff’s Office, Maryville Public Safety is the primary law enforcement agency serving residents living within Maryville’s city limits, where more than half of Nodaway County is packed into a patch of land that takes up less than 7 square miles.

The rest of the county, which stretches across 878 square miles of northwest Missouri, is left to the Sheriff’s Office.

But for the last four years, White said, the efforts of the sheriff and his deputies have been increasingly focused on Maryville, even as the office’s budget has increased, leaving more than 10,000 residents in cities like Barnard and Burlington Junction underserved.

Constituents in rural towns scattered across the county have told White they “feel like they’ve been abandoned” over the last four years, he said, before diving into a conjectured screenplay to illustrate why, exactly, he is right, and why, exactly, it matters.

“I can tell you first hand that if we were sitting right here where we

“

It’s a fair question to say, ‘Why would anybody want to do this — especially right now?’ That’s the best answer I can give you, is that it’s a passion.”

-DARREN WHITE



DARREN WHITE
Candidate for Nodaway County Sheriff

ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

Former Nodaway County Sheriff Darren White is running for the office again this November after losing to Randy Strong in 2016. White said he “knew immediately” after losing by less than 1,000 votes in the last election that he would run again in 2020, building his campaign platform on two issues: service and budget concerns.

are right now, and we had to get to Elmo, Missouri,” White said from his picturesque property, which sits nearly 25 miles away from Elmo. “I can tell that from right here, driving just as fast as you could possibly go, it’s gonna take you at least 30 minutes to get there. ‘Cause it’s just that far away. And there’s a lot of places in this county that are like that.”

While budget record indicate it’s true that the Sheriff’s Office yearly budget increased by \$399,929 from 2016 to the end of last year — half as much as White claimed — Strong has continuously defended the budget increase.

As Strong has pointed out, \$368,216 of the increase — more

than 90% — can be attributed to new accounting software that shifted line items like employee insurance costs from the county’s general fund to the Sheriff’s Office’s annual budget and increased salaries, which are controlled by the county commission.

And in an email to The Missourian, Strong rejected the notion that the office’s presence in the rural corners of the county has decreased in his time as sheriff.

“He has nothing to back this claim,” Strong said in the email. “It is fabricated.”

Still, as White’s platform policy claims range from accurate, at least at a surface-level view, to

subjective, they’re the claims he’s pinning his election bid on, hoping that voters move to elect him as the redeemer his campaign ads paint him to be.

White isn’t sure why he lost the last election he ran four years ago. It could have been the “DEM” next to his name on the ballot, he said. It could have been the increasing polarization of partisan divides.

And White said it could have been a result of a the nationwide scrutiny he and the city faced in the wake of the alleged rape of 14 year-old Daisy Coleman in 2012, which brought national media outlets to Maryville’s town square after then-prosecutor Robert Rice

dropped sexual assault charges brought against then-17year-old Matthew Barnett, and after a Kansas City Star article about the alleged assault circulated.

In a letter to The Maryville Forum in January 2019 reflecting on the case that defined his time as sheriff, White described the “torture” the community went through as the city weathered a media storm.

He ridiculed community leaders who didn’t defend Maryville. And he recalled a moment on the courthouse steps, alongside Rice, when White said he “was the only one with the courage to stand with” the prosecutor as he faced a sea of satellite trucks and television cameras for the final time.

“I was the only one,” White says now, the hero in his own recollection, amid some of the same controversy again in the aftermath of Daisy Coleman’s death by suicide in August.

White dove into the same details of the investigation that he’s been willing to rehash for more than half a decade. He recalled the process the sheriff’s office went through.

He noted the death threats he still receives, and has increasingly since Daisy Coleman’s death. He took the opportunity to explain why, exactly, he is right and why, exactly, it matters.

“I think that people — at least the majority of people that live here — figured it out,” White said Sept. 24. “And figured out that that was all, just, made up.”

Barnett pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor child endangerment charge in 2014, when the case ultimately ended. But his name — along with White’s, Rice’s and the alleged victim’s — have swirled again in the months since Daisy Coleman’s death. White, though, was speculative, or at least hesitant, when he thought back to the moment he heard about her suicide in early August, one that reignited a national outcry over the most scrutinized case in the former sheriff’s career.

“What went through my head was, ‘Isn’t it odd that this happened right at an election?’” White said. “Isn’t it odd that she lives so far away from here and the only information that we’re receiving is from her mother, who we know is a serial liar? I mean, she’s a convicted felon for fraud, insurance fraud. ... My experience with her is that you can’t really believe anything that comes out of her mouth. You better verify it for yourself.”

John Romero, a public information officer at the Lakewood Police Department in Colorado, where Daisy Coleman lived, confirmed to The Missourian that she died by suicide in the city in early August.

The national account of what happened to Daisy Coleman in 2012 has already been recorded, and in it, White is among the villains. Even in the aftermath of her death, he seems intent on rewriting that script.

Seeking a county-wide office as death threats from places as far away as Seattle mount again in his Facebook inbox, White’s been forced to retell the facts of a case that has defined his career, defending the county and his deputies and the prosecutor, and most often, himself. He has no regrets about the way the case was handled.

“I did do the right thing,” White said.

As he runs an election built on the issues, White is not trying to outrun his past. Instead, he’s doing what he can to shift the focus and the storyline, painting a picture that helps explain the decisions he made then and the regrets he doesn’t have now, one that helps explain why, exactly, he is right and why, exactly, it matters.

And he’s doing so at the will of the voters, trying to campaign his way back into the narrative in Nodaway County, back into the sheriff’s office where he’s convinced he belongs.

READ MORE
ONLINE

A full version of this story, complete with input from several of White’s former colleagues, is available on our website at NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest cross country practices in smaller groups of about 12 athletes at a time at Bearcat Stadium. This allows for the athletes to have more one-on-one time with their coaches and fellow athletes as they prepare for a potential season this fall.

NW cross country hopeful for competition this fall

TANNER SMITH
Sports Reporter I @T_smit02

Northwest cross country is looking towards the potential of a fall season, depending on what the University and MIAA decide on.

With Northwest football starting practice Sept. 28 and trying to schedule a few games this fall, the Bearcat women’s and men’s cross country team are preparing for competition, if feasible.

Both teams have been practicing for the past few weeks in preparation for the spring track and field season, but the MIAA’s vote to allow each member institution to schedule fall sports at its own discretion could change things.

“I would love for football to come back and have a safe fall season,” Northwest track and field coach Brandon Masters said. “According to the NCAA, football is a high-risk sport for COVID-19, and we are a low-to-medium risk, so I would love to see us be able to go out and compete.”

The Bearcats have been practicing in small groups that have brought practices down from 40 kids at practice to groups of roughly 12 athletes taking shifts. This has allowed for the coaching staff to have more one-on-one time with the athletes.

The team has been focusing on its regular regiment of work throughout practices, and the Bearcats feel they would be prepared for a season.

“Our cross team is fit and doing well,” Masters said. “With the one-on-one training, I feel they would do well in competition, even if it is a shortened season, because they lost racing time this past spring.”

“Our guys and girls are always ready for a chance to compete.”

-TUCKER DAHLE

Cross country is a year-round sport, so not much time was taken off for both the men’s and women’s team. At their hometowns before heading back to Maryville for the fall, the athletes were to continue to train for whatever comes their way.

“Our guys and girls are always ready for a chance to compete,” senior runner Tucker Dahle said.

With their minds still focused

on the spring, the groups have created closer relationships with their coaching staff. Not only has this allowed for the athletes to get better, but it has brought on a better bond with their leaders.

However, not being around the whole team has changed the team atmosphere. Since they are in small groups, they haven’t been able to interact with all their teammates as they normally would.

“Even though we as coaches are building better relationships with our athletes, I think being in pods has taken away from the family aspect of our team,” Masters said. “This will be something we will grow into closer to the season starting, whether it be this fall or the spring.”

For the distance guys, they feel a different way about the family atmosphere during these small groups. They work mainly with assistant coach Nick Gibson and have been able to work together at certain times.

“I know that our distance team is still very close,” Dahle said. “From what I see from the other athletes, they are trying to find ways to build a bond given the circumstances.”

With the word on a fall season for the cross country team still up in the air, the Bearcats are continuing to train in their groups with the hope of being able to run soon.

ROAD TRIP CONTINUED FROM A10

In the past eight years, Maryville has found themselves atop of the Midland Empire Conference seven times.

The loss of an MEC opponent, especially in a tight race with St. Pius X leading the pack, could be costly for trying to secure the conference championship.

Week 6 was Maryville’s last opportunity in the regular season to

play in front of a home crowd before playing the last three games of the regular season on the road.

While it’s not an ideal situation, Webb will continue to ride the waves that have come with a season of uncertainty.

“There’s nothing that we can do about it; I don’t really have much feeling about it,” Webb said. “We’re going to go out and play with the schedule we have. That’s out of my control.”

CONNOR CONTINUED FROM A10

Drake got his official first start against Harrisonville in Week 2. While Drake was nervous heading into the game, he knew he had to perform well to get Maryville’s first win of the season.

The jitters seemed to leave his body early, as his first pass of the game was a completed two-point conversion.

It was a back-and-forth battle, and Drake got a feel of high school football. Coming out of halftime, Drake threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown. The interception brought Harrisonville within 10 points, but Webb built confidence in his new starter.

“Webb took me to the side and told me to keep my head up, that it happens,” Drake said. “He told me that our defense will get a stop and that I will have to go win us the game.”

Down by four points with 2:58 left, offensive coordinator Matt Houchin turned to his new starting quarterback to seal the game. On third down, Drake scrambled out of the pocket and found senior wide-out Kade Wilmes for the 16-yard game-winning touchdown.

“Knowing that Coach Houchin had a pass play ready to end up winning the game boosted my confidence,” Drake said. “It was just the best feeling.”

Webb had nothing but high praise for Drake and the ‘Hounds’ offense.

“Nothing surprises me,” Webb said. “Connor is an awesome kid. He cares for his teammates, and he knows he has to execute the offense. He’s going to do his one-eleventh.”

Every game is important in the eyes of Drake, but a moment that’s stuck out to him during his transition to starting quarterback was

the Week 3 matchup against Chilli-cothe, which served as Senior Night for the program.

Drake tallied two touchdowns passing. More importantly, he was glad to grab the win for his senior teammate, friend and mentor.

“As a lower classman, you always want to go out there and perform and win on Senior Night for the seniors who put a lot of time and effort into it,” Drake said. “I knew since Ben could not be out there with us, I had to step up and play even better.”

Coaches, players, family and the community have rallied behind Drake as his legacy as Maryville’s quarterback has begun. Drake could not be happier to be playing for a community who cares so deeply about him.

“While I’ve been at home lately watching film, or at practice, I’ve been to a few places where people have come up to me and told me congratulations,” Drake said. “It just makes me feel good that they’re not worried that their starting QB is gone, but they’re seeing I can play and see we’re not done yet.”

From a kid who didn’t play competitively until seventh grade, sat out his eighth grade year, remained the backup quarterback on varsity and wasn’t expecting many game minutes, Drake had a journey to share

Drake has thrown six touchdowns on the season after five games and has the Spoofhounds above .500 with a record of 3-2, including a 2-1 mark in the MEC. Drake is happy he sat down with his parents and stuck with football.

“Coach always talks about family, and Maryville High School football is the best example,” Drake said. “Everyone loves through each other. We’re there for each other and we have each other’s backs. We’re all just one team.”

The Crown

hair-reiki-good vibes
Joni Sherlock

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Three MHS runners set milestones

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs

Maryville cross country witnessed another successful Saturday as three of the Spoofhounds’ top five runners reached new milestones in their high school careers Sept. 26. With the team split apart, an opportunity for growth presented itself to each athlete.

The large pack of ’Hounds made a 90-mile journey to Kansas City, Missouri, to compete in the SPX Cross Country Invitational Sept. 26. Coach Rodney Bade said this meet was a good challenge for juniors Jag Galapin and Cale Sterling.

“It was nice to see them leading the race and under that kind of pressure,” Bade said. “For Cale and Jag, it was more of an opportunity to win a meet. Having their teammate elsewhere, this was an opportunity for them to place really high and also know what it feels like to be in the lead.”

Bade said he was happy that the two juniors were able to feel the stress of setting the tone and keeping in front of the herd, something these runners aren’t necessarily accustomed to yet.

“That was the biggest thing for Jag and Cale,” Bade said. “What does it feel like to be one and two?” Always finishing third or fourth or fifth, you kind of don’t have as much stress, but when you’re leading a race, it’s a whole different feeling. All of a sudden you’re like, ‘Oh crap, I’m in the lead. What if I fall apart? What happens if someone catches me? What am I gonna do?’”

As much as these thoughts may have wavered in Galapin and Sterling’s minds, it didn’t stop them from a one-two finish in the 5,000-meter run. Galapin was first to rumble across the line with a time of 18 minutes, 34 seconds and 8 milliseconds, securing his first individual win of his high school career. Sterling snagged a second place finish, rolling through the line

with a time of 18:51.5 and capturing his best individual finish in a high school meet.

Despite being happy with winning, Galapin wasn’t all that comfortable with being in front for a majority of the race. Some woes of leading that Bade mentioned ended up setting in.

“It was very unnatural (to be in the lead),” Galapin said. “Most of the race I was slowing down so I can have people right in front of me, so I can pace it. Usually, at bigger meets, I’m not always leading the pack, so I always have that mentality of having someone in front of me and pacing behind them. In the race, it was so unnatural because I had to set my own pace, kind of like I was running blind.”

Galapin said he was also unhappy with St. Pius’s course, especially in comparison to the course in Pella, Iowa.

“The ground was terrible and had holes,” Galapin said. “There were some places where we had to cross cement, which was not a good idea. St. Pius, unlike Pella, just had steep hills and steep downhill. There was no steady uphill. It was all up, down, flat and that was it.”

Running course landscapes have a great impact on how well a runner performs. For comparison, Galapin ran 54.8 seconds slower at St. Pius than what he posted in the Heartland Classic Sept. 19.

Likewise, Sterling saw a 1:03.8 increase from when he ran on Central College’s course. However, both Spoofhounds were able to outlast the high and lows of competition and put away the rest of the field.

Meanwhile, senior Garrett Dumke embarked on a one-spoofound mission to compete in the Gans Creek Classic Sept. 26 in Columbia, Missouri. The race was held on a brand new course, specifically made for the MSHSAA Cross Country State Championships.

Bade said he had planned for the senior to run in this meet since



Maryville cross country had three runners reach new milestones, including senior Garrett Dumke finishing 13th out of 136 runners at the Gans Creek Classic Sept. 26 in Columbia, Missouri. Dumke finished with a time of 16:23.9.

the Missouri Southern High School Stampede was canceled Sept. 19.

“We were seeking other places for him to run fast,” Bade said. “Being a senior, we felt like it was appropriate for him to get a little special consideration, I guess you could say.”

In the most competitive group of the meet, Dumke finished 13th out of 136 with a time of 16:23.9. The race proved to be something special, as he shattered his own personal record by 14.2 seconds and came within 5 seconds of breaking the school’s record, positioning himself as the second fastest runner in Maryville history.

“Going into the meet, I definitely had lower expectations for myself,” Dumke said. “Going in, I thought I would place around 50th, 60th place, knowing I was going against all these big schools. I definitely surprised myself coming out

of this meet.”

Before the race, Dumke told himself that he would have to push harder than he ever has, he said. He knew what time he was chasing, and he went after it. At the conclusion of the race, feelings of fulfillment rushed through his body as he realized the extent of his running capabilities.

The course Dumke ran on was constructed to be fast, so there’s no surprise that he would’ve done well on this course. Dumke thinks the next time he will run this fast, it will be on this same course in November.

“I probably won’t be seeing another PR until state,” Dumke said. “At Gans Creek, it was a very hot meet. So when we go back to the Gans Creek Course for state, it’s going to be a lot cooler and nicer, so I’m really looking forward to seeing if I can PR again on that course at the end of the year.”

Bade, Galapin and Dumke all

UP NEXT

MHS @ Bishop LeBlond
9 a.m. Oct. 3
St. Joseph, Missouri

know that the next few weeks aren’t filled with the fastest courses, so their priorities are downshifting from running fast to staying healthy.

“The following weeks, I’m trying just to not get injured,” Dumke said. “I’m going to keep training week by week, and keep improving as a runner. As for races, I’m basically looking for placement, not for time.”

“Right now, the plan is to have everybody healthy and go win a meet as a team,” Bade said. “That would be nice, but the reality is, if we don’t win anything until conference, then it just is what it is.”

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MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN
Cailyn Auffert, a senior at Maryville High School, goes to swing at the golf match Sept. 29 at Mazingo.

Young golfers leading way for Maryville team

MORGAN GUYER
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Maryville girls golf won its second duel of the season, defeating St. Joseph LeBlond 214-253 Sept. 29 at Mazingo Golf Course.

The Spoofhounds were led by a first place finish from freshman Cailyn Auffert, who shot a 49 on the par 36. Senior Lauren Padgitt shot a 51 to finish second. Freshman Ainsley Watkins finished in third with a 53. Coach Brenda Ricks was impressed by her team’s performance.

“I’m very pleased with their performance today,” Ricks said.

Maryville has a young team this season, with two upperclassmen on the roster compared to seven freshmen. Ricks is happy to see the maturity shown early in the season by her younger players.

“These freshmen are really coming around,” Ricks said. “They are just like sponges; they want to learn, and there’s just so much to



UP NEXT

MHS @ LeBlond, Lafayette
4 p.m. Oct. 1
St. Joseph, Missouri

learn in golf.”

Auffert is one of the freshmen that has impressed so far this season. She has been the lowest scorer for the Spoofhounds in eight of their nine events. She now has two first place finishes at Mazingo with rounds under 50, and she will look to continue that streak in their home match against Savannah and St. Joseph-Benton Oct. 5.

Watkins has also had a good first year for the Spoofhounds, finishing in second place twice in duels and triangulars while having two top 25 finishes in tournaments.

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DATE: Oct. 2

TIME: 10 am - 3 pm

LOCATION: Wells Hall side drive area, parking lot



Maryville High School sophomores Anastyn Pettlon and Rylee Vierthaler wait to hit the ball back during their game against Plattsburg High School.

Volleyball faces tall task after time away

TANNER SMITH
Sports Reporter | @t_smit02

After having a total of two games canceled between last week and this week due to COVID-19, Maryville volleyball is hoping to complete the rest of its scheduled games for the week starting Sept. 28.

The 'Hounds were slated to have two road games, Sept. 24 against Cameron and Sept. 28 against Lafayette. These games were canceled due to players being in close contact with individuals who tested positive for COVID-19. The game against Cameron has been rescheduled for Oct. 10. The Spoofhounds replaced Lafayette with Pleasant Hill Sept. 28.

With the eight-day stretch with zero games, the 'Hounds are able to work on things they may not have been able to if the games were still on. Maryville is 8-1 on the season, with the first loss coming against Pleasant Hill.

"Having a few games off gave us a moment to reset and refresh before our three big games coming this week," Maryville senior outside hitter Serena Sundell said. "We have had some very beneficial practices in place of those games, so I think we will be ready to go this coming week."

The seniors on the team have been playing along side each other since they were in seventh grade, bringing comradery among the



players. The team has tried to focus on its communication throughout the week to enhance what it already has.

"Communication is something we can always improve on," Spoofhounds' coach Miranda Mizera said. "Sometimes, the girls are so comfortable with each other they forget to communicate on the court, and I think that is something we can definitely improve on."

Some communication issues were shown in their past few games. The 'Hounds had miscommunication on offense that led to Plattsburg having life in the third set of the Sept. 22 matchup between the two.

In terms of team chemistry, this will be the first week of the season that all the 'Hounds will be able to be on the court together. Senior outside hitter Jordyn Suchan is the last girl to come off of quarantine after coming in contact with someone with COVID-19, and she will be active in the matchups this week.

The team has been able to stay connected throughout the hard times. They stayed engaged through phone calls and social media so that no one missed a beat.

"We are excited to have everyone ready to play," Mizera said. "Even though this is the first time this season all the girls are able to compete this year, I don't think it will affect the girls because they have stayed close through it all."

A break from games affects ev-

UP NEXT

MHS v Savannah
7 p.m. Oct. 1
'Hound Pound

ery team in a different way, and what each team does with the lay-off time differs. The 'Hounds feel that this was a good opportunity for them to reset and slow down to focus on every aspect of the game.

Sundell looks forward to the rest of the week's matchups and feels confident in what the team implemented at practice last week.

"We were preparing for a week of tough competition," Sundell said. "We worked on making certain plays more natural. So for hitters, we did lots of shots going deep line so it can become more of an instinct in the game."

The 'Hounds have not had to deal with many high-pressure situations this season, and this week they were able to implement this type of attacking to their practice schedule. Blocking, coverage and pressure situations were the main focus at practice this week.

Following a game against Savannah Oct. 1, the 'Hounds will face off against St. Joseph Central and Mid-Buchanan.

"This team does a really nice job of knowing each of our roles, and we use that as a strength," Sundell said. "We play for each other rather than playing for ourselves."

Esports' League team aims to build on hot start

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

In correlation with a surge of esports being played worldwide, along with the foundation of a program at Northwest, the Northwest League of Legends team is hoping to make a name for itself in the gaming community.

Last year, Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege and Rocket League were two of the games that the program was heavily invested in. League of Legends was in that group, but not to the extent that it's focused on now.

"Last year, it was pretty fun," Northwest junior Brennen LaMastres said. "COVID just got rid of a lot of our excitement for it. So, the excitement kinda died down just a little bit, but once we started going again this year, it was pretty fun to see it surge out."

The game is one that puts two teams of five players against each other in an attempt to complete the objective of destroying the other team's base, otherwise known as the Nexus. Both teams are comprised of players that have different roles, as the game has 140 characters to choose from.

Included in the program's team this year is Northwest junior Thomas Thach, who is in his first year with the team. Without joining the program, Thach said, he doesn't really know what he'd be doing.

"I've enjoyed it a lot, especially with this new esports room, instead of playing at home," Thach said. "I wouldn't have met any of these guys if I hadn't joined the program. The program so far, playing with these guys has just been great."

Despite being new to the program, Thach isn't new to the game. He's been playing League since 2013, four

years after the game's release.

"I actually have people to play with now whenever I feel like playing," Thach said. "So, it's been pretty nice."

Thach and the rest of the team opened the nine-match season against the University of Iowa and completed a 2-0 sweep of the Hawkeyes. He said the match-up was surprisingly easier than he originally thought it would be, considering Iowa is a Division I school.

LaMastres was shocked as well. "It's pretty cool because when you hear about who Northwest would be playing, a lot of the athletics don't stand a chance," LaMastres said. "Our football team going against LSU, they'd just get killed. But, for us, we've had a lot of success playing Division I schools."

The fun part about a spike in participation among the program, LaMastres said, is that people are branching out and trying new things. He said that a few people joined esports without ever playing League, or having their own computer, but have already had an impact on the team.

The convenience of the new esports lab on the third floor of the J.W. Jones Student Union allows the team to practice and play in the same setting, along with providing the necessary equipment for people that perhaps wouldn't have it otherwise.

Last year, in a league in which the team joined, LaMastres said they went pretty deep in the postseason.

This year, the League team is looking to get back to that point — and then some.

"It's really exciting," LaMastres said about having a full season in front of them. "I feel like we have a really strong group. ... I think the team we have right now is a lot stronger than the one we had last year."

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JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN

After three-year starter senior quarterback Ben Walker was hurt in the first game of the season, junior quarterback Connor Drake was called upon to lead Maryville football's offense. Drake has a record of 3-1 as the starter, along with a 2-1 mark in MEC play.

NEXT MAN UP

Former backup steps into spotlight after injury to QB1

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Maryville football's offense lined up for a fourth-and-4 in the Week 1 matchup against Blair Oaks, looking to punt the ball away to keep the Falcons from inflicting more damage.

The scoreboard at Walton Stadium in Warrensburg, Missouri, displayed Blair Oaks' dominance with a 38-0 score. With 38 seconds ticking off before halftime, the ball was snapped.

Senior quarterback Ben Walker was the lone player in the backfield and began his usual rugby-style punt routine.

A Falcons' blitz up the middle allowed Blair Oaks' senior defensive lineman Rylee Niekamp to break through the Spoofhounds' trenches and wrap up the defenseless Walker. The wrap-around tackle put Walker in an abnormal position, where his leg was bent underneath him.

Instantly, Walker grabbed his leg, and his screams could be heard on the field. The hit led to a torn ACL. Walker would be sidelined the remainder of the season.

The three-year starter saw his high school football career dissipate on that play, and the Spoofhounds called upon junior backup quarterback Connor Drake.

"Seeing him go down and hearing him scream as soon as the guy got off of him, I knew it wasn't good," Drake said about the play that injured Walker. "It was heart-breaking seeing your team leader go down like that."

Growing up in Maryville, Drake was surrounded by the continuous success and outpour of community support for Northwest football. He remembers either attending a game in person or watching the game on the TV with his family. Being around a storied program grew his love for the game.

Drake was also fascinated with the quarterback position and knew from an early age that was the position he wanted to excel at.

"Growing up, I always loved being the quarterback," Drake said. "I loved seeing them make the throws and being the leader on the field."

Although Drake caught an early interest in the game of football, he didn't start playing competi-

tively until seventh grade. While Drake always grew up fascinated by the sport, he decided to sit out his eighth grade season.

"I didn't really enjoy playing football in seventh grade. It was a lot different than I thought it would be," Drake said. "There were a lot of kids, and I didn't get as many reps."

Sitting out a year took a toll on Drake, he said, as he started to miss being on the field and realized he made a mistake. After sitting down with his parents, Drake made the decision to reenter the sport in high school.

“Seeing him go down, and hearing him scream as soon as the guy got off of him, I knew it wasn’t good.”

-CONNOR DRAKE

As freshman year approached, Drake was persuaded to try out for wide receiver, as the freshman team already had a potential starting quarterback. For Drake, not all hope was lost, and he gained the starting job when the quarterback above him was moved to fullback.

Since then, Drake learned from Walker, who led the Spoofhounds' offense on Friday nights. This season was no different, as Drake knew his role would be a backup quarterback.

"I knew this role came with the responsibility of running the scout team offense," Drake said. "I knew I needed to work hard and learn from Ben as much as I could for next year."

Drake wasn't expecting to see the field much during the season, but he knew he could make an impact by allowing his teammates to be better athletes.

"Sitting behind Ben my sophomore year, I knew he was a really good quarterback," Drake said. "I've looked up to him since I was a freshman. I knew I wasn't going

to beat him out, but I knew that if I competed as hard as I could, he would compete as hard as he could and grow as a quarterback."

In the Blair Oaks matchup, Drake, who wasn't expecting to receive a lot of minutes, was thrown onto the field as the leader of the offense.

Drake sat in the locker room at halftime, mostly in shock. He had trouble processing seeing his teammate and friend go down in such a disturbing way. Maryville coach Matt Webb calmly talked to his new starting quarterback.

"Just going in, I knew Webb would want me to do the best I could," Drake said. "He told me I was QB1 now, and the team has my back no matter what."

Drake took Webb's message to heart and seized his opportunity. On his second possession of the season, Drake rolled out to his left and threw the ball 10 yards downfield to an open senior wideout Caleb Kreizinger. Kreizinger did a quick sidestep to avoid a Falcon defender and ran the ball 29 yards for a touchdown.

"It was a corner route to Caleb, and I threw it to him and he scored," Drake said. "I just ran down the field and couldn't believe it. That was my first varsity touchdown. I was just on cloud nine."

Since grabbing the reins of the Spoofhounds' offense, Drake hasn't been focusing on outside noise. He's been focusing on playing his style of football and helping his team win, one week at a time.

"I just go out there and play my game and try to do my best every snap for my teammates," Drake said. "I know that my coaches will give me film, so I can watch it and study it to grow as a player."

The coaches aren't the only ones helping Drake grow as a player, as Walker has been by Drake's side every step of the way.

"Ben has been there for me every step of the way. He's pumped confidence into me. He's helped me understand plays and read defenses better," Drake said. "He's been like another personal coach."

Drake communicates with Walker during practices. When not at practice, Drake will message Walker via Snapchat and talk about the upcoming games and defenses they'll face that week.

SEE CONNOR | A7



JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville football's senior cornerback Matt Goodridge flaunts after making a tackle in the Spoofhounds' 62-7 win over Chillicothe Sept. 11 at the 'Hound Pound. The Spoofhounds' Week 6 matchup was canceled due to COVID-19.

Maryville schedules new team after MEC matchup cancellation

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Maryville football was on a quest Sept. 25, when the Spoofhounds traveled to Dave Goodwin Memorial Field in Cameron, Missouri, to try and secure their first road win of the 2020 season.

The Spoofhounds (3-2, 2-1 MEC) saw another slow start against the Dragons (3-2, 1-2 MEC) when they fell behind 7-0 in the first quarter. The 'Hounds found a groove in the second quarter and were on cruise control for the remainder of the game, eventually winning 27-7.

After a two-game away stint, Maryville was looking forward to hosting Benton at the 'Hound Pound for the last home game of the regular season, which also served as homecoming for Maryville High School.

Some news followed the Spoofhounds back to Maryville, as Benton had to cancel the Week 6 matchup due to players and staff being quarantined from COVID-19.

Junior quarterback Connor Drake was looking to start in his first homecoming varsity football game.

"It will be weird not having a homecoming game, because those are memories that you make," Drake said. "Going to the dance after the game and just playing a homecoming game is fun."

Coach Matt Webb and athletic director Mat Beu do not want to waste a regular-season game, as MSHSAA determines district seeding based on a point system

UP NEXT

MHS @ Odessa
7 p.m. Oct. 2
Odessa, Missouri

throughout the season. Losing a scheduled game could potentially be detrimental towards the Spoofhounds' playoff position.

Maryville announced Sept. 30 that the void left by Benton was filled with a trip to play Odessa Oct. 2 in Odessa, Missouri.

It was uncertain as to what Benton's cancellation held for the Spoofhounds. Webb was prepared to practice no matter what.

"We have a normal week of practice. Football is a sport where you have a lot of techniques to improve on," Webb said. "You also have offensive and defensive schemes that you need to keep working to improve on. At this point of the season, I think every team needs to continue to improve."

For the Spoofhounds, besides senior quarterback Ben Walker suffering a season-ending injury, they're relatively healthy. While other programs could utilize an off-week to heal players, Maryville wants to keep playing.

"You play high school football to play games. We want to play," Webb said. "We're fine with injuries; we don't have bumps or bruises. You play to win games."

SEE ROAD TRIP | A7